

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to file a comment in support of Pulver.com and their Freeworld Voice-Over-IP service. While, in essence, the service they provide is a form of telecommunication, I feel that it is different enough from the regular PSTN telephone network -- which is what Congress had in mind when it passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 -- that it and services of the same nature should be exempt from regulation under current law. The logic behind my opinion is simple: since this service uses the Internet as its means of connection, and not the PSTN, it is equivalent to e-mail, swapping of legal media files, or any other form of Internet-based communication, none of which is currently regulated. Since anyone can access the Internet, as opposed to the PSTN with its considerably large barriers to entry, enough services could spring up to take advantage of this new technology to ensure fair competition and negate the need for government regulation. Indeed, removing the cloud of potentially cumbersome governmental regulation will likely encourage other compaines and/or individuals to enter this market, prompting competition, innovation, and improved choices/services for consumers -- the very thing that most goverment regulation purports to be attempting to achieve.

If the Congress were to choose, at some point in the future, to regulate Internet-based communications, it would be valid to include Voice-Over-IP services under these regulations. However, for the time being, services of this nature must remain unregulated, as no law exists that appropriately covers them. It should be noted, however, that I feel strongly that Congress should stay out of the business of regulating the Internet, and that I would vociferously oppose any such legislation if it were to be proposed.

Sincerely,  
Alex Kirk